

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please replace the pending claims with the following claim listing:

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) A modular unit for transporting work pieces and suitable for use in an array of such units, comprising a top; a driven transportation arrangement which propels the work pieces onto and/or off said top and against which the work pieces rest when located on the top of the unit, the transportation arrangement being part of said top; a controller for controlling the driving of said transportation arrangement and a top plate segregating said controller from any work piece being transported; wherein said driven transportation arrangement is located substantially in at least two spaced apart locations of said top and the space between said locations is not occupied by the driven transportation arrangement; whereby said space is suitable for receiving a work piece treatment device.

20. (New) A modular unit according to Claim 19, wherein the transportation arrangement is located substantially about the periphery of the top and the region of the top of the unit located within the periphery of the top is suitable for receiving a work piece treatment device.

21. (New) A modular unit according to Claim 19, wherein the transportation arrangement comprises a wheel, a drive causing the wheel to rotate, and an arrangement to

selectively engage the wheel with a work piece, when a work piece is located on the top of the unit.

22. (New) A modular unit according to Claim 19, wherein the unit comprises at least one wheel for driving the work piece in one direction and at least one second wheel which selectively engages the work piece and is oriented, in use, in a second direction.

23. (New) A modular unit according to Claim 22, wherein the at least one second wheel of the unit engages and lifts the work piece; whereby the work piece only engages the second wheel.

24. (New) A modular unit according to Claim 22, wherein the at least one wheel of the unit and the at least one second wheel of the unit are orthogonal one relative to the other.

25. (New) A modular unit according to Claim 19, wherein the unit comprises two compartments: one for receiving a work piece treatment device located in an upper compartment of the unit and a second containing the control electronics; and a separating member is provided to seal the second compartment from the first compartment.

26. (New) A modular unit according to Claim 19, further comprising a work piece lifting component, the component being sufficiently spaced from the unit top to allow the transportation arrangement to continue to transport work pieces whilst lifting one work piece.

27. (New) An array of modular units, wherein the units are each in accordance with Claim 19 and of substantially equal height and a controller is provided to control the displacement in the X and Y plane from one unit to another.

28. (New) An array of modular units according to Claim 27, wherein each unit has a controller which allows the direct communication from one unit to its direct neighbouring units, whereby the transportation from one unit to the next may be coordinated.

29. (New) An array of modular units according to Claim 27, wherein a further array of modular units is suspended above the units comprising work piece treatment devices.

30. (New) An array of modular units according to Claim 27, wherein the controller stores a number of operative protocols dependent on work piece types, selects the appropriate operative protocol dependent on the work piece to instruct the operation of a series of units, and the controller controls the unit; whereby several protocols may run in parallel in the array of modular units.

31. (New) An array of modular units according to Claim 27, wherein at least one plate is provided with recessed portions into which modular units are selectively inserted and removed.

32. (New) A modular unit according to Claim 19, comprising at least one component which protrudes from the top of the unit and which is so sized and shaped to engage a conical

recessed portion of a work piece when located on the top, whereby the position of the work piece on the top of the unit may be accurate.

33. (New) A modular unit according to Claim 21, wherein the unit operates in conjunction with a pallet which has one or more recessed tracks corresponding to one or more wheels.

34. (New) A modular unit according to Claim 19, comprising a sensor for sensing the position of a work piece when located over said sensor.

35. (New) A tensioning arrangement, for one of a belt drive and a chain drive of the kind in which a temporarily induced slackness in one of the belt and chain must be compensated automatically and followed, if subsequently necessary, by a correspondingly opposite sense movement of the tensioner to release the tension previously imposed; wherein the tensioner comprises first and second arms arranged in a mirror-image formation to bear simultaneously in use against respectively opposite runs of one of the belt and chain.